

(b) *Time and place of filing request for review.* The request for review shall be made in writing and filed with the Appeals Council within 30 days from the date of mailing the notice of the hearing officer's decision, except where the time is extended for good cause. The requesting party shall certify that a copy of the request for review and of any documents that are submitted therewith (see §410.695) have been mailed to the opposing party.

**§410.695 Procedure before Appeals Council on review of hearing officer's decision.**

The parties shall be given, upon request, a reasonable time to file briefs or other written statements as to fact and law and to appear before the Appeals Council for the purpose of presenting oral argument. Any brief or other written statement of contentions shall be filed with the Appeals Council, and the presenting party shall certify that a copy has been mailed to the opposing party.

**§410.696 Evidence admissible on review.**

(a) *General.* Evidence in addition to that introduced at the hearing before the hearing officer may not be admitted except where it appears to the Appeals Council that the evidence is relevant and material to an issue before it, and subject to the provisions in this section.

(b) *Individual charged filed answer.* Where it appears to the Appeals Council that additional relevant material is available and the individual charged filed an answer to the charges (see §410.689), the Appeals Council shall require the production of such evidence and may designate a hearing officer or member of the Appeals Council to receive such evidence. Before additional evidence is admitted into the record, notice that evidence will be received with respect to certain issues shall be mailed to the parties, and each party shall be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on such evidence and to present other evidence which is relevant and material to the issues unless such notice is waived.

(c) *Individual charged did not file answer.* Where the individual charged

filed no answer to the charges (see §410.689), evidence in addition to that introduced at the hearing before the hearing officer may not be admitted by the Appeals Council.

**§410.697 Decision by Appeals Council on review of hearing officer's decision.**

The decision of the Appeals Council shall be based upon evidence received into the hearing record (see §410.692(j)) and such further evidence as the Appeals Council may receive (see §410.696) and shall either affirm, reverse, or modify the hearing officer's decision. The Appeals Council, in modifying a hearing officer's decision suspending the individual for a specified period shall in no event reduce a period of suspension to less than 1 year, or in modifying a hearing officer's decision to disqualify an individual shall in no event impose a period of suspension of less than 1 year. Where the Appeals Council affirms or modifies a hearing officer's decision, the period of suspension or disqualification shall be effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision. Where a period of suspension or disqualification is initially imposed by the Appeals Council, such suspension or disqualification shall be effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision. The decision of the Appeals Council will be in writing and a copy of the decision will be mailed to the individual at his last known address and to the Deputy Commissioner, or the Director (or Deputy Director) of the Bureau of Retirement and Survivors Insurance.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972]

**§410.698 Dismissal by Appeals Council.**

The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for the review of any proceedings instituted under §410.688 pending before it in any of the following circumstances:

(a) *Upon request of party.* Proceedings pending before the Appeals Council may be discontinued and dismissed upon written application of the party or parties who filed the request for review provided there is no party who objects to discontinuance and dismissal.